

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OFA-01

INT-05 AGR-05 CG-00 DOTE-00 DLOS-04 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 EB-07 IO-10 /092 W
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R 141715Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5782

INFO COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS PINT IC

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION REMAINS STRONG TO NEW FISHERIES PACTS AS OLD
ONES EXPIRE

1. ALL EXISTING FISHERIES AGREEMENTS BETWEEN GOI AND OTHER GOVERN-
MENTS EXPIRED AT MIDNIGHT LAST NIGHT LEAVING ICELAND IN SOLE
NOMINAL CONTROL OF ALL FISHING WITHIN 200 MILES OF SHORE.

2. COAST GUARD OFFICIALS AND OTHERS RESPONSIBLE HAVE GIVEN NO
INDICATION AS TO WHAT ACTION, IF ANY, WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST
FOREIGN TRAWLERS IN ICELAND'S CLAIMED JURISDICTION. FIFTY BRITISH
FISHING VESSELS WERE REPORTED TO BE INSIDE 200-MILES LAST NIGHT,
BUT NO INCIDENTS INVOLVING THEM HAD BEEN REPORTED BY MID-AFTERNOON

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TODAY.

3. THOUGH DEVELOPMENTS AT SEA ARE BEING FOLLOWED CLOSELY NO EARLY SHOWDOWN IS EXPECTED, AND MOST PUBLIC INTEREST CONTINUES TO FOCUS ON GOI POSITION TOWARD NEGOTIATIONS, ESPECIALLY REGARDING "CONCESSIONS" INSIDE 50 MILES ON WHICH GOVERNMENT REMAINS TIGHT-LIPPED. TWO EDITORIALS THIS WEEK IN MORGUNBLADID, DAILY OF PRIME MINISTER'S INDEPENDENCE PARTY, TRIED TO CONDITION PUBLIC FOR COMPROMISE BY CALLING FOR REALISTIC APPROACH TO PROBLEM AND NOTING THAT PAST HAS PROVEN ICELAND LACKS CAPABILITY TO PHYSICALLY DEFEND FISHING GROUNDS AND THAT COUNTRY HAS GAINED MORE BY BARGAINING THAN IT COULD HAVE THROUGH INTRANSIGENCE.

4. OPPOSITION TO NEW AGREEMENTS COVERING 50-MILE AREA, HOWEVER, REMAINS AS STRONG AS EVER AND EXTENDS TO ALL POLITICAL PARTIES. COMMUNIST-DOMINATED PEOPLES ALLIANCE LEADS HARDLINERS. PA'S DAILY THJODVILJINN ATTACKED MORGUNBLADID REASONING REFERRED TO ABOVE AS DEFEATIST AND CONTINUES TO ACCUSE GOVERNMENT OF PREPARING SELLOUT TO "NATO FRIENDS." HEAVIEST PA FIRE HAS BEEN DIRECTED AT PROGRESSIVE PARTY WHICH PA DOUBTLESS PERCEIVES -- PROBABLY CORRECTLY -- AS WEAK LINK IN CABINET EFFORT TO AGREE ON TERMS FOR SETTLEMENT WITH UK AND FRG. IN TWO RECENT EDITORIALS THJODVILJINN HAS CALLED ON PROGRESSIVE RANK-AND-FILE TO WAKE UP TO TREACHERY OF LEADERSHIP WHILE CHALLENGING PP LEADERS TO REVEAL THEIR CLOSELY GUARDED POSITON TOWARD NEGOTIATIONS.

5. OPPOSITION FROM WITHIN GOVERNMENT PARTY RANKS HAS BEEN MORE MUTED ALTHOUGH ALTHING FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN THORARINN THORARINSSON CONTINUES TO TAKE HARD EDITORIAL POSITION IN PP DAILY TIMINN, WHILE NEW ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT IP DAILY DAGBLADID HAS CARRIED SEVERAL COLUMNS BY OUTSPOKEN FOES OF COMPROMISE.

6. PUBLIC RALLY BY OPPONENTS OF CONCESSIONS TO FOREIGNERS REPORTEDLY BEING CONSIDERED FOR NOVEMBER 16, ALTHOUGH NO PLANS HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED.

7. WE WERE ADVISED, HOWEVER, THAT IF RALLY OCCURS AND GETS OUT-OF-HAND, THERE COULD WELL BE A MARCH-BY AND PAUSE AT THIS EMBASSY WITH ANTI-NATO PLACARDS EN ROUTE TO UK AND FRG EMBASSIES WHICH ARE A FEW BLOCKS FROM US. ANTI-AGREEMENT FORCES WERE GIVEN FRESH AMMUNITION YESTERDAY WITH RELEASE OF REPORT BY STATE RESEARCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COUNCIL PRESENTING NEW, GRIM OUTLOOK FOR FUTURE OF FISH STOCKS, ESPECIALLY COD, UNLESS RADICAL CONSERVATION MEASURES TAKEN AT ONCE.
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Message Attributes

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